



# Cabazon Circle

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## NIGA joins tribal leaders in Phoenix

Cabazon Band of Mission Indians Chairman John James, along with several other tribal members, joined representatives from tribes across the country in Phoenix, Ariz., for the National Indian Gaming Association gathering in April.

Chairman James presented the oath of office to returning NIGA secretary Lynn Valbuena, of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, who also serves as president of the Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations (TASIN) representing gaming tribes in Riverside County, Calif. Cabazon tribal elder Joe Benitez presented the blessing for the closing banquet ceremony.

Cabazon tribal member Brenda Soulliere, who serves as chairwoman of the California Nations Indian Gaming Association (CNIGA), also made a presentation at the convention, speaking about sovereignty issues in California and how they affect tribes nationally.

The trade show opened April 7 with remarks by Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano who joined newly



*Cabazon Chairman John James, left, and Anthony Pico of the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, were among the hundreds of tribal elders and representatives who attended the annual NIGA convention in Phoenix in April.*

reelected NIGA President Ernest J. Stevens, Jr., of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, Mike Jackson, Chairman of the Arizona Indian Gaming Association (AIGA) and President of the Quechan Tribe, and other tribal dignitaries for a ribbon cutting.

The official opening of the trade show doors followed with a visit by Arizona State Senator Jack Jackson, Sr., and his son, Jack Jackson, Jr., Arizona State Representative, who are members of the Navajo Nation.

They toured the trade show floor, took pictures, and met with tribal members and NIGA associate members before returning to the Arizona State Capitol.

"Indian gaming has gone through quite a road trip," Napolitano said. "It has been my honor to be part of this effort."

Indian Gaming National Perspectives was the topic of discussion

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### FALLEN HERO



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### GATHERING OF NATIONS



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### MORE NIGA PHOTOS



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### TRIBAL PORTRAIT



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## No more bus rides for Fantasy Springs employee

### Employee Appreciation Day highlights honors and thanks to casino workers

Fantasy Springs Casino slot attendant Christopher Windham has never owned a car and takes the bus to work from a relative's home in Coachella – a reality that changed in a flash April 2, when he won a \$25,000 vehicle in a Fantasy Springs employee contest to reward out-

### Seniors feted at awards banquet

The Cabazon Band of Mission Indians helped sponsor the Senior Inspiration awards in April at the Marriott Desert Springs Resort and Spa in Palm Desert.

The event honors outstanding seniors who are involved in community affairs for a lengthy period of time.

Each honoree personifies a healthy, active and community supportive attitude and lifestyle.

The widely known event was attended by many community leaders.

standing attendance.

The 22-year-old San Bernardino resident, a senior majoring in psychology/pre-law at California State University-San Bernardino, also rides the bus to and from school because he hasn't been able to afford a new or used car or truck. But his luck changed when he turned the ignition key and heard the roar of the engine on one of two vehicles parked at Fantasy Springs. Instead of a car, Windham has opted for a Ford F-150 truck from Fiesta Ford.

"I've never won anything before in my life. I'm just in a state of shock," said Windham, who admitted afterward that the reality of his good fortune had yet to sink in. "During the day, I kept saying I was going to win (the vehicle) and never counted myself out."

In addition to a \$25,000 vehicle, Fantasy Springs is picking up the cost of sales tax and license fee. And as a surprise bonus, Windham was handed a \$100 bill by John James, Chairman of the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, to use "for gas money."

Fantasy Springs Casino Manager David Rexroth, Windham's supervi-

*Fantasy Springs Casino Slot Attendant Christopher Windham (second from left) receives a handshake from Cabazon Tribal First Vice Chairman Charles Welmas after winning a \$25,000 car in the casino's employee contest to reward outstanding attendance. Windham, 22, a senior at California State University-San Bernardino, has never owned a car and takes a bus to and from work and school. Windham, who said he'll get a Ford F-150 truck from Fiesta Ford with the allowance, is joined in the celebration by Cabazon Tribal Chairman John James and Cabazon Tribal Secretary/Treasurer Virginia Welmas. Below, Tribal Legal Affairs Director Patrick Schoonover, left, is joined by Cabazon Chairman John James, Tribal Member Joe Benitez and Casino General Manager Joe DeRosa.*



sor, praised his perfect attendance and outstanding work record. He has worked at the casino since last August.

Windham was among 10 finalists whose names were drawn from a drum. Narrowed to two following a brief game of bingo, Windham and maintenance worker Mario Garcia of North Shore were asked to start two convertibles parked behind the casino, but only one of the keys worked. Garcia received a nice second place consolation prize of \$2,000 in cash.

Fantasy Springs employees qualified for the car drawing each week they achieved perfect attendance between last November through March.

# California tribes top national wages, benefits, UNLV study shows

SACRAMENTO, CA – Employees at California tribal government gaming operations earn substantially higher wages and benefits than workers at other tribal casinos in the United States, a 2002 survey by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas shows.

Executive salaries and hourly wages for California tribal casino employees were substantially higher in 83 of 110 job classifications, according to the 2002 Indian Gaming Wage Survey. Health, life insurance and other benefits offered by California tribes also were equal or better than tribal casinos in other states, according to the UNLV study of 59 tribal gaming operations. Sixteen of the tribal operations are in California with others in Arizona, New Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota and in the Eastern United States.

“This independent survey of tribal gaming across the country confirms that tribal governments here in California appreciate their workers, and treat them well,” said Brenda Soulliere, chairwoman of the California Nations Indian Gaming Association and a Cabazon tribal member. “Not only is tribal government gaming the fastest growing industry in California in terms of job creation, but these are quality jobs that provide workers with excellent pay and benefits.”

The survey shows that employees in mid-management and supervisory positions generally earn more than \$50,000 a year. Housekeepers and other casino workers earn far

more in California than other states, the survey shows.

Cocktail and food servers and bartenders for tribal casinos earn more than the state and federal minimum wage, according to the survey. Tip workers in casino jobs, particularly dealers, can earn \$50,000 or more a year.

The survey shows that all but two of 14 California tribal casinos responding to the 2002 survey provide health, dental and vision insurance.

Tribal leaders told

CNIGA that all tribal governments now provide insurance coverage. Forty percent of California casinos responding to the survey said they provide insurance to part-time workers, a business practice that is extremely rare.

Seventeen percent offer indemnity plans; 67 percent offer PPO plans; 25 percent offer POS plans; and 42 percent offer HMO plans. Premium costs are not disclosed in the UNLV study. Employees pay from no cost to 20 percent of the insurance premiums, the study shows.

Dependent coverage range from no cost to employees to 60 percent of the premium.

All the tribes offer dental coverage and 92 percent offer vision coverage. “In terms of the percentages (of premiums paid by the tribal governments), the figures stack up

very, very well for the tribes,” says Rick Salinas, assistant general manager for the Barona Valley Ranch Resort and Casino near San Diego. “If you were to look at what percentage of the premium the employee is paying, both in Northern and Southern California, we as an industry compare very, very well to other businesses.

“The employee will get as good a benefits package with the tribal governments as they would get at a major, upscale hotel company,” Salinas said. “I’m looking at Marriott, Hyatt, Four Seasons and Ritz Carlton. I’m talking high end, respected chains that have a good product.

“The people who represent our health care providers consistently

tell us that we are very generous not only in our plan design – there are very few restrictions in our plan – but in what we ask our employees to contribute.”

Chairman Mark Macarro of the Pechanga Band of

Luiseno Indians, operators of the Pechanga Resort & Casino in Temecula, testified at the hearing that the annual payroll for some 2,800 gaming employees exceeds \$60 million. A summary of the UNLV study can be obtained at CNIGA offices, 1215 K Street, Sacramento.

The complete study can be obtained from Mary Ann McDaniel, wage survey coordinator, UNLV Hospitality Research and Development Center, 702-895-3903.

**Casino employees “will get as good a benefits package with the tribal governments as they would get at a major, upscale hotel company” —**

***Rick Salinas,  
Barona***

**Employees in mid-management and supervisory positions generally earn more than \$50,000 a year.**



# California Indian News

## California Council on Problem Gambling has a new Executive Director

The Board of Directors of the California Council on Problem Gambling has elected Bebe Smith as the council's new Executive Director to take over the responsibilities at its Palm Springs headquarters.

Smith stepped into the job in April. An independent consultant for the council since September, she brings more than 15 years of marketing and public relations experience to the job.

"When I look at the history of our organization I am encouraged about the future. I recognize the importance of strengthening our alliance with CNIGA, its members and their respected associations. I would like to see unity between CCPG and the tribes and welcome their input and reviews as we reshape the organization to provide better services in our communities," Smith said.

## Cabazon police chief leads new statewide tribal police association

Cabazon Tribal Police Chief Paul Hare has been tapped to serve as president to a new California tribal police organization.



Paul Hare

Called the California Tribal Chiefs of Police Association, the newly formed group represents 15 tribes with their own police departments. "We had a meeting in April in Sacramento and have adopted a new constitution, and set up a non-profit

status," Hare said. He will represent the group as its president for a two-year term.

The group's mission is to "implement and ratify standards of professionalism within tribal police organizations in California," Hare said. The tribal police group will work with other state agencies such as the California State Sheriff's Association and the California Chiefs of Police Association to strive toward maintaining quality officers and overseeing standardization of tribal police across the state.

Hare serves as Director of Public Safety for the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians. He oversees a police department with 22 officers working around the clock. The tribe also maintains a fire department that works both on the reservation and off, helping neighboring cities as needed at no cost to local taxpayers.

## Tribe plans to open fire station on reservation

SAN BERNARDINO - The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is planning to start its own fire department on the reservation this June, tribal representatives say.

Jill Eaton, the tribe's director of communications, said the band is still discussing what services their department would provide. She said the station will be located on Indian Service Road on the reservation and have a staff of about 24 people.

The firefighters will use some of the existing tribal offices until a station is built.

Eaton said the tribe has wanted a fire department for some time and that national standards suggest maintaining a station one-and-a-half miles from tribal buildings. She said the closest fire station is a little

further then it should be.

San Bernardino Fire Chief Larry Pitzer said the tribe has a seven year contract with the city for fire service that expires in 2006.

He said the two departments would need to join into a mutual aid contract, much like San Bernardino has with other cities.

Pitzer has not taken the idea to the City Council yet.

The band has contributed to the city's purchase of three fire engines and a hazardous material truck over the past few years. It has also given \$45,000 so the city can match a federal grant for exercise equipment in the fire stations.

The band presently has paramedic services for their casino patrons, employees and tribal citizens. It also has a public safety department that can only detain people on the reservation and in the casino.

## Diabetes doubled in minority groups

Diabetes is afflicting California's African Americans, Latinos, American Indians and Alaska natives at rates sharply higher — in some age groups, more than twice as high — than the rate it strikes whites, a comprehensive new study reports.

Nearly 1.5 million adult Californians have been diagnosed with the disease and another 1.8 million have a good chance of getting it, according to the study by the University of California, Los Angeles, Center for Health Policy Research.

Diabetes results when the body lacks or can't properly respond to insulin, a hormone, which is essential for getting sugar into the body's

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By Judy Stapp  
Director of Cultural Affairs

### *News from the Cabazon Cultural Museum*

For Native Americans artistic expression was part of day-to-day life.

It was in the crafting and adornment of clothing, the weaving of baskets and the shaking of a rattle. While many of these activities were necessary for survival, they were also seen as an opportunity to celebrate the world and to offer prayer to the Creator.

For the Cahuilla, music was an integral part of their lives. They sang songs when they played games. They sang songs for dances and hunting and food gathering expeditions. They recorded their tribal history in song. And they sang songs with religious meanings.

Most of the music of the Cahuilla people was sung without musical instruments. One instrument that was used to keep rhythm when they sang and danced was, and still continues to be, the gourd rattle. The

gourd, *pai-yal* in Cahuilla, was skillfully cleaned and the rattle-maker would place seeds inside the

**The gourd,  
*pai-yal* in  
Cahuilla, was  
skillfully  
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maker would  
place seeds  
inside the  
dried gourd to  
produce the  
rattle's own  
unique sound.**

dried gourd to produce the rattle's own unique sound. Another Cahuilla instrument was the deer hoof rattle used during the Deer Dance Ceremony, which preceded a hunt.

Songs and stories were lessons for Cahuilla children. There was a song to teach each duty which was needed to support the livelihood of the village. The children were taught with song to memorize their tribal history. Elders in the village used songs and games to teach the children lessons needed to become productive adults.

The Cahuilla Creation Songs describe how after the creation of the world the tribe traveled around the

*Into the present day, Cahuilla people of all ages continue to tell their stories in song accompanied by gourd rattles.*



world three times before settling in their Southern California villages. The songs describe how the Cahuilla came to the Coachella Valley where their ancestors continue to live today.

The most sacred music was for the Fire Dance. The people believed the religious leader, the *puul*, would acquire super-human powers when he performed the Fire Dance during a ceremony.

Artistic expression continues to be important to Cahuilla people today. "I have taught my children, nieces and nephews and their children to sing our songs. I have had over 100 children sing and dance the Bird Songs with me over the years" says Anthony Andreas, leader of the Cahuilla Bird Singers. "It's through the youth that our culture lives on. It does my heart good to see so many young people learning our songs and stories."

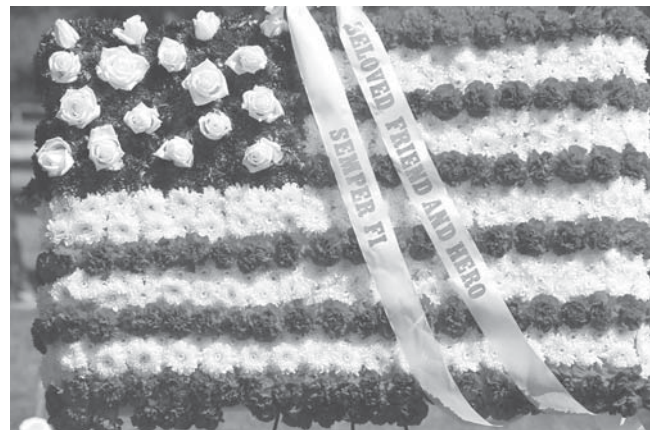


IN MEMORIAM:  
CPL JESUS ANGEL GONZALES

# Tribal honors for a fallen hero



Indio Marine, Cpl. Jesus Angel "Hugo" Gonzales, received full military and tribal honors at his funeral in Indio in April. Gonzales, 22, was killed by sniper fire in Iraq while manning a checkpoint. He reportedly had a lifelong interest in indigenous cultures, with his own ties to the Chiapas in Mexico. Gonzales often contributed his time to the Torres-Martinez tribe and received a tribal blessing from Cabazon elder Joe Benitez, pictured above right. Attending his funeral mass were Rep. Mary Bono, R-Palm Springs, congressional Medal of Honor recipients Mitchell Paige of La Quinta and Robert E. Bush of Indio, Indio Mayor Mike Wilson, Coachella Mayor Juan De Lara, dozens of military veterans, and a funeral detail team from the Marine Corps base in Twentynine Palms, where Gonzales was stationed. He was buried in the eastern Coachella Valley.





Lori Piestewa

## Arizona board gives nod to renaming Squaw Peak

Contested decision erases vulgar term from state maps

After prodding from the governor and rising public sentiment, an Arizona state board has agreed to rename a prominent state mountain peak after a Hopi servicewoman killed in Iraq.

Some members of the Arizona Geographic and Historic Names Board had resisted the push to rename Squaw Peak in honor of Army Pfc. Lori Piestewa, noting that federal policy requires that people be dead five years before their names can be used on geographic features.

But one critic resigned and chairman Tim J. Norton — whose resignation Arizona's Gov. Janet Napolitano had sought — was a no-show when the rest of the board voted 5-1 to rename the Phoenix landmark Piestewa Peak.

State maps and records are affected by the decision, which also serves as a recommendation to a national board to change the name

## NIGA gathering sparks contributions for fallen Hopi

Lori Piestewa, mother of two and the first U.S. female soldier killed in the Iraq war, was honored at NIGA in April, with more than \$85,000 collected on her behalf.

The pledges for Piestewa, whose death was announced just days before the National Indian Gaming Association conference opened in Phoenix, rolled in from tribes across the nation, including a \$40,000 scholarship pledge offered by the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation.

As a younger man, Joseph Saubel, 90, of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, had served in the same unit as Piestewa. He spoke to the NIGA gathering and offered respects for his comrade, setting up a trust fund of \$5,000 for Piestewa's children. The conven-

tion offered a moment of silence following the presentation of Color Guards from the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and the Oneida Indian Nation of Wisconsin. A Southern Nation drum group performed an honor song as well.

Piestewa's 507<sup>th</sup> Army Maintenance Company was ambushed March 23 near Nasiriyah, Iraq. She was one of 11 soldiers listed as "missing in action" for nearly two weeks, with her death confirmed by the Pentagon on April 4.

Donations are still being collected and may be made to any Wells Fargo bank, to account #0464633783, or sent to the Lori Piestewa Memorial Fund, C/O National Indian Gaming Association, 224 Second St. SW, Washington, DC, 20003.

on federal maps and documents.

"For the purposes of Arizona, the name is Piestewa Peak," said Tim Nelson, general counsel for the Democratic governor.

Piestewa, a Hopi from Tuba City in northern Arizona, is the only American servicewoman to die in the war. She was among nine members of the Army's 507th Maintenance Company killed when their unit made a wrong turn near Nasiriyah and drove into an ambush March 23. Six members of the 507th were taken prisoner but ultimately rescued.

In renaming Squaw Peak, supporters hoped to honor Piestewa (pronounced py-ESS-tuh-wah) while removing a name many Indians find offensive. While the word is used today as a general term for an Indian woman, its origin was a vulgar and demeaning reference to tribal women. Native American lawmakers

and others have tried repeatedly to remove the word "squaw" from the names of Arizona landmarks but failed to interest enough supporters.

"Lori's legacy will live on," said Delia Carlyle, vice chairwoman of the AK-Chin Indian Community about 60 miles south of Phoenix.

One member of the board, Lloyd Clark, voted against the change, saying the point of the waiting period is to let emotions settle before making a decision. Another member, Richard Pinkerton, resigned on the day of the vote after some 19 years of service, saying he refused to "prostitute my integrity in the interest of satisfying a certain political venue."

The board also gave its blessing to naming the Squaw Peak Freeway after Piestewa. The state's transportation board is set to decide whether to rename the roadway this month.



# NATIONAL INDIAN NEWS BRIEFS

## Sioux press for \$25 Billion in lawsuit over boarding school abuses

LOS ANGELES - Six members of the Sioux Nation who say they were physically and sexually abused in government-run boarding schools sued the United States for \$25 billion in April, hoping to launch a lawsuit on behalf of hundreds of thousands of mistreated American Indians.

The six plaintiffs all attended Catholic boarding schools in South Dakota, but claim in their lawsuit that psychological, physical and sexual abuse was inflicted on Indian children throughout the school system and covered up by a government which forced them to leave their homes for boarding schools.

The plaintiffs allege violations of treaties that date back to the 19th century between the U.S. government and American Indian tribes.

A Department of Justice spokesman could not be reached on Thursday for comment on the lawsuit, which was filed in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in Washington, D.C.

"All my life I've never wanted to think about these things. I pushed them as far back as I could," tearful plaintiff Adele Zephier said at a press conference in Los Angeles to announce the lawsuit. "I'm really happy to be here today to tell everybody the truth about what happened to us as children."

Zephier said she was abused by nuns and sexually molested by a priest at a school run from 1948 to 1975 by St. Paul's Catholic Church in Marty, South Dakota. Her brother, plaintiff Sherwyn Zephier said he endured beatings at the school.

Jeff Herman, the lead attorney in the lawsuit, said he hoped to include in the suit "hundreds of thousands" of American Indians who were abused at boarding schools and expected other lawsuits to follow against individuals and churches involved in running the schools.

(Source: Reuters)

## Feds agree to Wisconsin gaming deal

Federal officials agreed in April to a new Wisconsin gambling deal with the Forest County Potawatomi tribe, but with a key change that will keep alive the possibility of an off-reservation American Indian casino in Kenosha.

The tribe will increase its payments to the state by \$78 million over the next two years, and plans for a \$120 million expansion of its Milwaukee casino remain in

place, Potawatomi spokesman Tom Krajewski said.

"They got 98 percent of what they were looking for," Krajewski said of the tribe.

Marc Marotta, administration secretary for Gov. Jim Doyle, said the action should help smooth the way for approval of similar agreements with Wisconsin's 10 other tribes. Doyle is counting on \$237 million in additional casino payments from all 11 tribes to help plug the \$3.2 billion hole in the next state budget.

The tribe no longer will have a "zone of exclusivity," which would have prevented other tribal casinos from being located within 50 miles of the Potawatomi Bingo Casino in Milwaukee.

## National Society for American Indian Elderly Tribal VISTA Project

The National Society for American Indian Elderly will soon be placing 12 VISTAs among many of the Native American member tribes as part of a national outreach program.

The VISTAs, Volunteers In Service To America, will be assisting the tribal elder programs that are in need of locating extra funding for nutrition, socialization, in home services and transportation needs.

Among the many duties the VISTAs will be performing include organizing chore service groups to help the elders with yard work and heavy housekeeping that they are unable to do for themselves due to age or health conditions.

"We are thrilled to have so many qualified candidates who are willing to give back to their community through our elders programs," said Gaylene Spolarich, VISTA Supervisor.

Volunteers are also needed to serve in mentor groups that match elders and youth to bring Native culture and language back into communities.

Anyone interested in volunteering or donating to assist Native elders can contact the National Society for American Indian Elderly at 2214 North Central Avenue, Suite 250, Phoenix, AZ 85004, Phone (602) 307-1865.

Please visit the National Society for American Indian Elderly website at [www.nsaie.org](http://www.nsaie.org) or email at [info@nsaie.org](mailto:info@nsaie.org).





# Gathering of Nations Powwow Albuquerque 2003



The Grand Entry, April 25, 2003, at the University of New Mexico "Pit."



*Cabazon Cultural Affairs Director Judy Stapp and Public Information Officer Nancy Tarascio stopped in to watch the Gathering of Nations Powwow in Albuquerque in April. Stapp, who is the coordinator for the Indio Powwow held twice yearly on the Cabazon Reservation was able to visit with powwow friends in the process. Photos here give just a glimpse of the thousands of Native Americans who gather for the annual event.*

## New Miss Indian World hails from Navajo Country

Topping off the Gathering of Nations Powwow was the crowning of this year's Miss Indian World, an honor given to Onawa Lynn Lacy of Gallup, a 20-year-old English-prelaw major at the University of New Mexico's main campus in Albuquerque.

Lacy's hope is to eventually practice law for the Navajo Nation. She is currently learning the Navajo language through courses at UNM and through her family.

A 2000 graduate of Gallup High School, Lacy competed with 33 Miss Indian World contestants from Canada and the United States to win the crown. Included in the group were five other Navajo contestants.

A seventh Navajo contestant had dropped out before the competition.

In the days leading up to the pageant and during the two-day Gathering of Nations, Miss Indian World competitors were judged on an essay, public speaking-personal interview, traditional talent and the dance competition. Since some contestants are not from powwow oriented tribes, each young woman could choose a powwow style dance or a traditional dance of their people. Lacy performed the Navajo ribbon dance.

Lacy said learning her native language is a battle. "It is based heavily on tones and inflections, and one mispronounced word can mean something else entirely," she said. (Source: *DinÉ Bureau*)





*Top left, Cabazon Chairman John James swears in NIGA secretary Lynn Valbuena of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. At right, Cabazon's Brenda Soulliere, Chairman James' daughter, helps her father down from the dais.*



*At right, NIGA President Ernie J. Stevens, Jr., with Cabazon Chairman John James. Below, Cabazon tribal elder Joe Benitez looks over the vendor booths at the convention.*



*Above, the Cabazons stopped for Phoenix's best view at the top of the revolving Hyatt Hotel restaurant called the Compass Room. From left, Political Analyst Paul Slama, Cabazon Secretary/Treasurer Virginia Welmas, and Cabazon Second Vice Chair Marc Benitez. Also joining the group were Brenda and Jim Soulliere, Joe and Diana Benitez, Deputy Director Public Affairs Sally Palmer, Chairman John James, and Public Information Officer Nancy Tarascio.*

# National Indian Gaming Association meets in Phoenix

*At left, Cabazon's Sally Palmer tours the convention vendors with Chairman John James, studying the latest offerings in gaming machines. The convention brought out hundreds of vendors who have found a new marketing audience in Indian gaming. Software makers, bedding manufacturers, architectural designers, toy companies and food vendors were just some of those companies represented at the gathering.*

*Below right, Ernie J. Stevens Jr., NIGA's newly reelected president, pauses for a smile with his friend Sally Palmer.*



*Paul Slama, pictured above, and at right, finally won a cap by learning how to balance a golf ball on a tee in a water-filled globe. The challenge had the Cabazon group working hard, including, from left, Virginia Welmas, Marc Benitez, Sally Palmer and Nancy Tarascio.*



*At left, Marc Benitez and Virginia Welmas take a break from meetings at the NIGA convention inside the Phoenix Convention Center.*



## NIGA...

*continued from page 1*

at Tuesday's session. Speakers included Anthony Pico, Chairman of the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, Delores Pigsley, Chairman of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz, and Tim Wapato, Former NIGA Executive Director.

Pigsley demonstrated the positive impact gaming revenues can have on tribal communities and talked about the economic development opportunities that have arisen. Pico spoke about the need to continue to cherish and protect tribal sovereignty. Wapato talked about the early days of the organization, reminding the gathering that Indian Country and its gaming tribes are "still in the business of dispelling ignorance." He reminded people that "there is a need to keep vigilant and continually educate members of Congress, the news media and the general public about the right of tribes to conduct gaming."

Audrey Bennett, President of the Prairie Island Indian Community in Minnesota and Mark Fox, former Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation councilman, were named the recipients of the organization's most prestigious honor: The Wendell Chino Humanitarian Award. The award is named after the late Wendell Chino, who served as Chairman of the Mescalero Apache Tribe in New Mexico for 43 years. Chino was honored with the first award in 1999.

Nominees are judged on the following criteria: demonstrated commitment to peace; demonstrated commitment to ease of suffering and injustice; demonstrated commitment to fair governance; and demonstrated commitment to the advancement of cultural understanding.

On accepting the award, Bennett said, she was "honored and humbled by this award." Speaking about all of her years of struggling to make the

world a better place for her tribe and for others, Bennett said, "it doesn't seem like work...it's a labor of love for Indian people."

Fox accepted his award, saying, "Wendell Chino was a fascinating man and a strong warrior and even to be mentioned in the same sentence with him - is almost more than I can bear."

NIGA officials reported more than

3500 registrants came to the 12th Annual NIGA Annual Meeting and Trade Show at the Phoenix Civic Plaza.

NIGA is a non-profit association of 184 American Indian Nations engaged in gaming to generate tribal government revenue for education, health, housing and other essential services. The common commitment and purpose of NIGA is to advance the lives of Indian people.

## Tribal successes noted at NIGA

American Indian tribal leaders from across the country took part in NIGA's panel titled, "The Native American Success Story," with each telling their story of how Indian gaming helped the tribe's direction toward self-reliance and economic success.

Mickey Brown, President and CEO of the Seneca Nation gaming enterprise, recalled that "what began as a dream and then a handshake with the governor of New York, resulted in opening the doors December 31, 2002 on a new casino in Niagara Falls." In 2004, he anticipates that the new 88,000 square-foot casino will generate a \$60 million payroll. "Eighteen to \$20 million will be spent in the local community," Brown said.

Jim Grey, Chief of the Osage Nation, described the latest challenge tribes are facing in Oklahoma. He explained that a bill being sponsored in the Oklahoma legislature could allow the State Lottery to move into Class III gaming, but restrict Oklahoma gaming tribes to current Class II status. According to Grey, 24 of Oklahoma's 39 tribes have Class II gaming facilities, which employ 3,800 people.

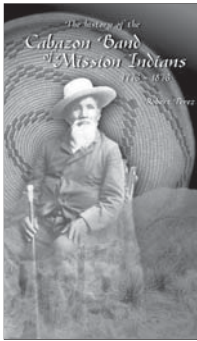
"Seventy percent of our employees are Native American," Grey said.

Class II gaming on Indian reservations in Oklahoma generates revenues of \$208 million annually, Grey said. Yet, despite these impressive numbers, the government considers tribes a "drain on the economy."

Tracy Burris, chairman of Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association (OIGA) added that the lottery bill has mobilized tribes throughout the state to work together more effectively to protect their common interests.

Kurt Lugar, executive director of the Northern Plains Indian Gaming Association, stated that gaming brings a positive economic impact of \$1.5 billion to his area, which includes North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas. Indian gaming employs 6,000 people, 72 percent of whom are Indian. Lugar added that Indian gaming has cut the unemployment rate 25 percent in his region. "The impact of this industry has been absolutely priceless," he said.

Paul Ninham, Councilman from the Oneida Nation in Wisconsin described his tribe's ascent from abject poverty to becoming a major employer in the community. "Acceptance is replacing intolerance," he said describing the change in his community.



**THE HISTORY OF THE CABAZON BAND OF MISSION INDIANS 1776-1867**

554 - \$5

Author Robert Perez (Apache) presents the first definitive history of the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians 1776-1876, a culmination of two years of research that included trips to national museums and oral interviews with tribal members. The book was designed and printed by the Cabazon's Fantasy Press Printing & Graphic Design shop on the reservation.



**WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR SOME**

3014 - \$9.95

On an Indian Reservation in Southern California the flags of two Nations fly with great pride. This video discusses Native Americans and their

journey to retain their sovereign rights. Running time 30 minutes.



**SPIRIT TO SERVE**

3013 - \$9.95

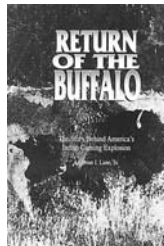
This video, narrated by actor Erik Estrada, shows how the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians' Police and Fire Departments serve and protect people and property, both on the reservation and in the surrounding communities. Running time: 30 minutes.



**INNER GNOSIS**

3016 - \$14.95

Author Mark Nichols' Inner Gnosis takes an in-depth look at the spiritual and meditative lifestyle in the form of poetry.



**RETURN OF THE BUFFALO**

555-D - \$18.95

Author Ambrose I. Lane's compelling account of the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, who took their fight to the Supreme Court of the United States and won the right to tribal government gaming for all Native Americans.

**SAVING THE SALTON SEA - THE VIDEO**

SAVING THE SALTON SEA: SOLUTIONS AND THEIR IMPACT

3012-E (English version) - \$9.95

3012-S (Spanish version) - \$9.95

3012-H (Hour English only) - \$11.95

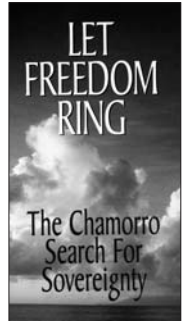
The Cabazon Band and the National Audubon Society present this documentary narrated by acclaimed actors William Devane (English version) and Tony Plana (Spanish version), which examines the facts and impacts on the Colorado River water transfers and the ongoing battle to save North America's third largest inland body of water. Running time (3012-E & 3012-S only): 28 minutes.



**LET FREEDOM RING: THE CHAMORRO SEARCH FOR SOVEREIGNTY**

3017 - \$9.95

Learn how Cabazon Tribal leaders traveled to Guam to assist the indigenous Chamorros in their search for sovereignty and self-determination. Running time 37 minutes.



**TOWNS & TRIBES**

3018 - \$9.95

U.S. Congressman Esteban Torres (1982-1998) takes a tour of the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians reservation near Indio, Calif. and offers a unique perspective into this sovereign Nation, their history and plans for the future. Running time 30 minutes.

**DESERT CAHUILLA VILLAGE**



300 years ago..... The sun rises over the village and the Desert Cahuilla Indians began another day of struggle to survive in the harsh valley---portrayed in mural form in Indio, California. Artist Don Gray of Flagstaff, Arizona, painted the original painting and produced the mural. Limited edition prints (8"x38"), numbered and signed by the artist, are available for \$150.00

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# INTERNATIONAL

## Scientists find oldest image of a deity by Andean Natives

Icon pushes back origin of religion in South America some 1,000 Years

Archaeologists have found a 4,000-year-old gourd fragment that bears an archaic image of the Staff God – the principal deity in South America for thousands of years.

“Like the cross, the Staff God is a clearly recognizable religious icon,” says Jonathan Haas, MacArthur curator of North American anthropology at The Field Museum. “This appears to be the oldest identifiable religious icon found in the Americas. It indicates that organized religion began in the Andes more than 1,000 years earlier than previously thought.”

Members of the Proyecto Arqueológico Norte Chico found the gourd fragment along the coast of Peru, 120 miles north of Lima, while collecting surface artifacts at a looted cemetery. The fragment, which was once part of a gourd bowl about the size of softball, has been radiocarbon dated to 2250 B.C.

*Archaeology* will publish a description of the new discovery in its May-June issue. The report is authored by Haas; Winifred Creamer, associate professor of anthropology at Northern Illinois University; and Alvaro Ruiz, Co-Director of the Proyecto Arqueológico Norte Chico.

According to Ruiz, “The Staff God, also known as Dios de los Baculos, is an iconic motif with a long and broad history throughout several Andean cultures. This deity figure is commonly shown in a frontal view, with a fanged mouth and splayed and clawed feet. Snakes are often part of the figure’s headdress or integrated into its garments. Most commonly, the deity is depicted holding a staff in one or both hands, hence the name.”

The incised and painted image on the newly found gourd fragment, while simple and archaic in style, clearly has fangs and splayed feet. Its left arm appears to end in a snake’s head, and its right hand holds a staff. A similar incised and painted drawing on a second gourd fragment from a nearby cemetery represents the same or a similar figure.

The figures were found in the Patavilca River Valley, one of four coastal valleys that make up the Norte Chico region of the Peruvian coast. This region was densely

populated between 2600 B.C. and 2000 B.C. and appears to have been the ancestral home of an Andean civilization that culminated 3500 years later in the Inca. “To date, 26 major centers have been recorded in the Norte Chico region, all with monumental architecture, large-scale ceremonial structures, and complex residential and administrative architecture,” Creamer says. “It is a truly unique concentration of settlements anywhere in the Americas.”

All the sites lack pottery, which was introduced on the Peruvian coast about 1900 B.C.

As part of a long-term project focused on the Norte Chico preceramic, the 2002 fieldwork was designed to extract radiocarbon dates, gain information on the construction of various platform mounds, and make preliminary collections at two cemeteries east of the modern town of Barranca. Both gourd fragments were found at these cemeteries, which today stand as large stone outcrops covered with windblown sand. (*Source: The Field Museum, Chicago, Illinois.*)

## Ancient women knew their tools

Move over, man the toolmaker: The idea of men as stone tool producers may need some rethinking, say University of Florida scientists who found women sometimes are the masters. Research among an Ethiopian group indicates stone tool working was not just a male activity, but rather that women probably had an active part in creating stone tools, one of the most ubiquitous materials found on prehistoric sites.

“It really gives women a presence in the archaeological record and a chance for us to reflect upon a place in prehistory where women basically have been invisible,” said Kathryn Weedman, a UF anthropology lecturer who led the National Science Foundation-funded research, which just completed its second year.

Stone tools are important because they were the first recognizable object people made, marking the beginning of the archaeological record dating back as early as 2.6 million years ago, Weedman said. Pottery and metal tools were not introduced until 5,000 to 10,000 years ago, she said.

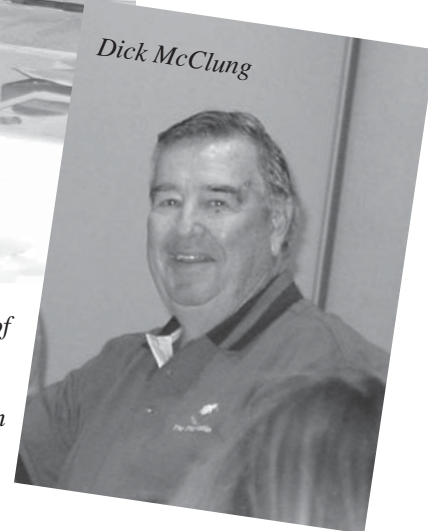
The project is unique because it provides evidence that women actively flake stone to produce tools, researchers say. (*Source: University of Florida*)



# Salton Sea Coalition meets on the reservation



*Tom Martin left, Kurt Russo, the group's leader, and Theresa Mike.*



*Dick McClung*

*Working to save the Salton Sea, the Salton Sea Coalition, led by Kurt Russo of the Native American Lands Conservancy, has been meeting monthly at the Cabazon reservation. The group hopes to find funding for their cause through new legislation offered by California Sen. Denise Ducheny. Above from left, Theresa Mike, Dean Mike, and Anthony Madrigal, listen to discussion.*

## Cabazons offer health services on the reservation

### Cooperative agreement with local hospital paves the way

The Cabazon Band of Mission Indians provide an on-site nurse for tribal members and employees, with Health Services Director Jo Ann Verzi putting in some seven years on the job.

Verzi, who provides a first-stop medical services center, is currently in the process of negotiating a competitive price for flu vaccines for the upcoming flu season. Employees and tribal members have historically been able to get their flu shots at the Cabazon reservation and she hopes to offer that service again in the fall.

Office hours at Verzi's clinic are Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Currently she has been helping tribal and casino employees with their diet plans. "I have them coming in regularly for cholesterol checks," she said. "Our food service department, which offers free on-site meals, has been assisting as well by offering fresh salads and healthy foods for those of us on a diet."

Verzi's services are provided to the tribe through a cooperative agreement with the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital in Indio, Calif. "I also work at the hospital there," she said, "doing surveys and quality reviews."

Upcoming later in the year, Verzi will be helping to coordinate an annual blood drive with the Coachella Valley Blood Bank and providing workers with resources for their children's immunizations.

## SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

At the American Indian Arts Museum in Santa Fe, New Mexico, this eclectic small city museum combines education, history and culture in a collection that spans some 6,500 objects created by students, alumni and faculty of the Institute of American Indian Arts.

The IAIA is home to the National Collection of Contemporary American Indian art by and about Native American people. As an internationally acclaimed cultural institution, the museum was founded in 1962 as the first multi-tribal institution created to enhance and preserve American Indian and Alaska Native art forms.



Above, Judy Stapp, Cabazon Director of Cultural Affairs, stopped by to visit the American Indian Arts Museum in Santa Fe while on a trip to Albuquerque, New Mexico for the Gathering of Nations Powwow in April. The museum's contemporary collection, pictured in part in photos here, resides in a must-see location for anyone interested in Native American creative works. Sister to the museum, the Institute of American Indian Arts is a four-year tribal college for Indian arts and culture offering two- and four-year degrees in the creative and communication arts. For information, see [www.iaiancad.org](http://www.iaiancad.org).



## The Cabazon Circle

is published monthly by the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, Indio, California.

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The Cabazon Circle is a newsletter to inform Tribal Members, employees and friends of the current events concerning the Band and the greater interests which bind all Native peoples. If you would appreciate receiving a monthly newsletter, let us know so that we can put you on our mailing list.

Please share your ideas and announcements by calling Dave Martinez at the Tribal Office at (760) 342-2593, ext. 3167.

Please visit our Web Site at <http://www.cabazonnation.com>

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# Talking stick profile

In April, producers for the *Journey To Planet Earth* PBS program stopped by the Coachella Valley while working on a story on the Salton Sea to air this fall. During their week here, Marilyn and Hal Weiner, spent time on the set of the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians weekday TV show, *The Talking Stick*, interviewed by host Mark Nichols.



Mark Nichols



The Weiners have produced, written and directed over 225 documentaries, a dozen "after school" television dramas and four PBS series through their Washington-based production company, Screenscope. They have also produced three feature films (*Family Business*, *The Imagemaker* and *K2*).

They have won Emmy Awards for *Earth Summit Pledge*, commissioned by the United Nations to open the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, and *Streets of Sorrow*, an NBC documentary about a support group that helps people cope with the violent death of a family member.

They are recipients of the National Academy of Television Arts and Science's 1998 Silver Circle Award for "outstanding contributions to the television industry." Marilyn Weiner is the winner of Women-In-Film's 1997

"Women of Vision Award" for creative excellence. The Weiners have also won over 130 top international awards, including 39 CINE Golden Eagles.



Through the early 1980s, Marilyn and Hal Weiner produced over a dozen after-school dramas for PBS and documentaries for major corporations and non-profit organizations. During this period the Weiners also established an international film distribution division. Overseeing a staff of twenty, including marketing and advertising specialists, they produced and acquired over 500 titles.

In 1983 they sold their distribution subsidiary to Gulf & Western, enabling them to devote their full energies to producing feature films and high profile documentaries for prime-time television (primarily PBS and NBC). Their films have been shot on location in more than 30 countries on five continents, translated into numerous languages and broadcast throughout the world.

Marilyn Weiner was appointed by Mayor Anthony Williams and currently serves as a D.C. Commissioner for the Arts and Humanities. She is on the Board of Directors of Washington's Filmfest D.C. and The Committee To Promote Washington, D.C. She has been panelist for both the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Hal Weiner is on the Board of Advisors of the Institute for Mental Health Initiatives and founder of the Independent Media Producer's Association. Last year he was invited to testify before the House of Representative's Commerce Committee about national security issues and the availability of the world's drinking water.





## Loads of laughs at the casino

*Cabazon tribal member, Prairie Martinez, second from left, becomes part of a comedy sandwich, along with Sandi C. Shore, second from right, and some class members from her comedy club class held over the past two months at Fantasy Springs Casino. Shore's monthly Comedy Island at the casino features professional stand-up comics, while her class brought out more than a dozen would-be comics who learned the tricks of the trade during the course. Shore's students were featured in a comedy show at the casino in April, wrapping up a successful effort and an invaluable experience.*

## Diabetes...

*continued from page 4*

cells to produce energy. Blood sugar imbalances can cause everything from low energy to kidney damage, blindness or coma. It is the nation's sixth-leading cause of death.

The report's authors at the UCLA center make sweeping recommendations, including better access to healthy food and exercise programs as well as broader health insurance and prescription drug coverage.

Among the key findings:

- 5.9 percent of adults in California and 12,000 adolescents ages 12-17 have been diagnosed with diabetes. Based on the prevalence of sedentary lifestyles and obesity, another 1.8 million are at significant risk for becoming diabetic.

- African Americans, Latinos and American Indians and Alaska natives had diabetes at rates nearly double those for whites and Asian adults between 50 and 64 years old.

- The prevalence of diabetes varies from county to county — differences that can be accounted for by differences in obesity and access to health care, as well as such factors as income, education, race, ethnicity, age and gender. (Source: *Sacramento Bee*)



## Tribal history recorded on video tape

*Cabazon Chairman John James, above, sits in an artifacts storage room in the Cabazon Cultural Museum while waiting for a video technician to set up the first of many video histories that are being taped of tribal members. Chairman James' first taping included an hour and a half of recording his memories for archiving tribal history, according to Cultural Affairs Director Judy Stapp. The videos will become part of an important record of memories about the Cabazons and neighboring related bands in the area that will add to the cultural center's historic resources.*



## CABAZON TRIBAL PROFILE

### Glenn Feldman

**Title:** General Counsel

**What that means:** I have been the Cabazon Band's principal attorney since 1979. I handle the tribe's federal court litigation, advise the Business Committee and tribal staff on legal issues and generally coordinate with other lawyers representing the tribe on various matters.

**Best thing about the job:** The Cabazon Band does what is necessary to exercise and protect its tribal sovereignty. I've been fortunate to have played a small part over the years in helping the tribe achieve those goals.

**Family:** My wife, Linda, and I have been married for 33 years. Our son, Jason, recently got married and lives in San Francisco. Our daughter, Lauren, is finishing her first year of law school in Los Angeles.

**Education:** B.A., University of Illinois in Chicago, 1969; J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, 1973.

**Favorite Books:** The Big Sky, by A.B. Guthrie, Jr. and Lonesome Dove, by Larry McMurtry, are great fictional accounts about the opening of the West.

**Favorite Movies:** Nothing in Common, a 1986 film starring Tom Hanks and Jackie Gleason (in his last performance) and Road to Perdition, with Tom Hanks and Paul Newman. Both explore the complex relationships between parents and children.

**Interests and Hobbies:** The American West: its history, culture, music and art; skiing; formula one auto racing.

**Philosophy:** Getting things done – in law and in life – requires that you be able to adapt quickly to changing circumstances. As a result, I generally subscribe to the philosophy of the late Senator Everett Dirksen of Illinois, who said, "I am a man of uncompromising principles and my first principle is flexibility."



*Glenn Feldman is a Phoenix-based attorney who acts as the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians General Counsel.*



### CAHUILLA CORNER did you know?

When the Cahuilla went on community hunts for rabbits, boys and unmarried young men did not take their game home. They gave the bounty to some other family. It was believed that if an unmarried hunter were to eat the game he had killed he would die. When a young man planned to marry, he supplied game to the parents of his bride-to-be. There were many complex rules to be followed regarding which village members could eat the meat caught by the hunters and when it could be eaten.



# Jose Feliciano performs at Fantasy Springs



*Famous for his perennial Christmas favorite, "Feliz Navidad," Jose Feliciano showed off his now classic musical talents during April at the Fantasy Springs Casino. Pictured above, the artist visits with Cabazon Public Affairs Director Greg Cervantes, and his wife, Hortencia.*



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